

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOCSOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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SUBJ: DANISH FISHERIES AND THE EC POND

1. SUMMARY. A DANISH PRESS REPORT FROM BRUSSELS, OUTLINED BELOW,
DESCRIBES SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THE UP-COMING EC COUNCIL
MEETING, WHEN THEY WILL BE TRYING TO ESTABLISH A WORKABLE

FISHERIES POLICY IN THE EC POND, VIS A VIS DENMARK'S
STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN ITS HIGH RATE OF FISHING
PRODUCTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER
COUNTRIES FALL GENERALLY INTO THREE CATEGORIES: A) USSR,
POLAND, EAST GERMANY, FINLAND, SWEDEN, SPAIN, BULGARIA,
AND ROMANIA ALL BELONG TO THE GROUP THAT HAVE APPRECIABLE
FISHING INTERESTS IN EC WATERS WHILE EC FISHERMEN HAVE
MINIMAL INTERESTS IN THEIR WATERS. (ROMANIA AND BULGARIA
HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXCLUDED DUE TO THEIR RELATIVELY RECENT
ARRIVAL IN NORTH SEA FISHERIES AND ALSO BECAUSE OF
LACK OF EC INTEREST IN THEIR WATERS, THE BLACK SEA.)
B) THE SECOND GROUP INCLUDES NORWAY, ICELAND AND THE
FAEROE ISLANDS WHICH DO HAVE FISHING AREAS OF INTEREST
TO THE EC. THESE COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE A TRADITIONAL
INTEREST IN EC WATERS. THE EC IS THEREFORE ATTEMPTING
TO ACHIEVE A FLEXIBLE AGREEMENT WHEREBY, FOR EXAMPLE,
NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN WILL BE PERMITTED TO CATCH THE SAME
AMOUNT OF FISH IN THE EC ZONE AS EC FISHERMEN WILL CATCH
IN THE NORWEGIAN ZONE. THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN UNSUCCESS-
FULLY TRIED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICELAND. (ICELAND IS
HOWEVER PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN EC HERRING AND, ANTICIPATING
AN EC HERRING BAN IN 1977, THE ICELANDERS ARE RELUCTANT
TO PERMIT EC FISHERMEN INTO ICELAND'S WATERS TO CATCH
THEIR VALUABLE COD.) C) THE THIRD CATEGORY COMPRISES
THE U.S. AND CANADA IN WHOSE WATERS SOME EC MEMBERS
WANT TO FISH BUT NEITHER CANADIAN NOR U.S. FISHERMEN
ARE INTERESTED IN EC WATERS.

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3. THE RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES
IS DEPENDENT ON QUOTAS DECIDED ON FOR MEMBER STATES.
THE RESULTING AGREEMENTS WILL ALSO NECESSITATE A LARGE
OCEANIC PATROL FLEET. WHILE THE EC MORE OR LESS AGREES
ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD NATIONS AND ABOUT CONTROL
OF THIRD COUNTRY FISHERMEN, DISAGREEMENTS EXIST WITH
REGARD TO CONSERVATION DECISIONS AND CATCH QUOTAS FOR
MEMBER STATES. DENMARK IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE IN BOTH
OF THE ABOVE DISAGREEMENTS.

4. IT IS PRIMARILY THE LARGE, TRADITIONAL DANISH
INDUSTRIAL FISHERY IN THE NORTH SEA WHICH IS BEING
THREATENED BY THE CONSERVATION MEASURES UNDER DISCUSSION.
IN PARTICULAR, THE DANES FIND MOST TROUBLESOME THE PROPOSAL
TO BAN FISHING FOR NORTH SEA HERRING. DENMARK CANNOT
ACCEPT A TOTAL BAN ON HERRING WITHOUT SOME ALLOWANCE
BEING MADE FOR A HERRING BY-CATCH IN THE DANISH INDUSTRIAL
FISHERY. (IN 1975 DENMARK LANDED 174,000 TONS OF HERRING

IN THEIR BY-CATCH). DENMARK IS ALSO DEMANDING THAT THE HERRING FISHERY IN THE SKAGERRAK NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY HERRING BAN ZONE (ALTHOUGH THE SKAGERRAK IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE NORTH SEA). ANOTHER AREA OF CONTENTION IS ALONG THE EASTERN COAST OF SCOTLAND WHERE THE DANISH FLEET CATCH SPRAT (300,000 TONS IN 1975). THE UK IS PROPOSING THAT THIS AREA BE CLOSED TO INDUSTRIAL FISHERY BECAUSE THEY CLAIM THE SPRAT FISHERY IS DESTROYING MOST OF THE VALUABLE JUVENILE GROUND-FISH STOCKS WHICH WILL IN A FEW YEARS BE CAUGHT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. DENMARK IS ALSO DEMANDING THAT BLUE WHITING NOT BE SUBJECTED TO CONSERVATION MEASURES BECAUSE THIS STOCK IS LARGELY UNEXPLOITED AND COULD SUPPLEMENT THE DANISH REDUCTION IN INDUSTRY.

5. FINALLY, THE MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH HAS TO BE RESOLVED CONCERNS IRISH AND SCOTTISH FISHERMEN'S DEMANDS THAT THEY HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE 50-MILE ZONE OFF THEIR COASTS.
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THEY HAVE NOT BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT THE 12-MILE EXCLUSIVE ZONE THE EC HAS PROPOSED. BOTH SCOTLAND AND IRELAND ARGUE THAT THEIR FISHERIES ARE UNDERDEVELOPED AND THEY WANT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT MORE FULLY THEIR OWN COASTAL RESOURCES TO BUILD UP THEIR FISHING INDUSTRIES' ECONOMY. DENMARK HAS PROPOSED THAT IRELAND AND SCOTLAND HAVE ZONES RESERVED FOR CATCHING FISH USING METHODS TRADITIONALLY USED BY COASTAL FISHERMEN. (THIS IMPLIES THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT, SEMI-ARTISANAL FISHING METHODS WHICH PRODUCE SMALLER QUANTITIES OF FISH PER UNIT OF EFFORT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE MORE TECHNICALLY DEVELOPED FLEETS.)

6. A LATER PRESS RELEASE REPORTS THAT THE DANES HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THAT SEGMENT OF THE UK FLEET WHICH HAD BEEN FORCED OUT OF ICELAND'S WATERS TO SUPPLY INDUSTRIAL FISH (MACKEREL AND HERRING) TO DANISH FISHMEAL FACTORIES. THESE VESSELS WILL BE ABLE TO WORK INSIDE THE 12-MILE LIMIT AND SHOULD FILL A CRITICAL GAP IN DENMARK'S FISH SUPPLY, PROVIDED THE UK FISHERY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS DO NOT OBJECT.
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